

SAFE KIDS KANSAS Holds Annual Meeting

Safe Kids Kansas held its annual meeting on Dec. 6. Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE Director of Health, addressed the group and helped to honor three organizations and one individual that have contributed to the mission of Safe Kids Kansas - preventing accidental injury, the leading killer of children in Kansas.

The Outstanding Coalition Member award for 2005, the highest award given by Safe Kids Kansas, was presented to Elena Nuss, Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal, for outstanding service to the Coalition and to Kansas children in the interest of childhood injury prevention.

The Outstanding Coalition Organization Award for 2005 was given to an organization that has demonstrated a long-term commitment to Safe Kids Kansas and to the children of Kansas in the areas of child passenger safety, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety – the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Safe Kids Marion County was honored as Local Chapter of the Year for the implementation of programs in multiple injury risk areas including child passenger safety, water safety, bike safety, and fire safety. Their dedication to the mission of Safe Kids makes them a model Safe Kids chapter.

The recipient of the Service Recognition Award was Kansas Action for Children for its sponsorship of Child Advocacy Day each year and for its assistance in advocating for a booster seat law for Kansas.

Safe Kids Kansas members elected three new board members: Dr. Jeffrey Colvin, Stormont Vail Regional Medical Center; Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children; and John Drees, Safe Kids Douglas County. They join current board members Dennis Cooley, Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Jeff Halloran, Kansas Safety Belt Education Office; and Elena Nuss, Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc. is a nonprofit coalition of 67 statewide organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing accidental injuries to Kansas children ages 0-14. Local coalitions and chapters are located in Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Clay, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Ellis, Ford, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Marion, Meade, Mitchell, Montgomery, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Republic, Rice, Riley, Saline, Smith, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson and Woodson Counties, as well as the cities of Chanute, Emporia, Leavenworth, Norton, Pittsburg, the Wichita and the Metro Kansas City Area. Safe Kids Kansas is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury.



Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE Division Director of Health, and Jan Stegelman, Safe Kids Kansas director, congratulate Elena Nuss, center, as the 2005 recipient of the Outstanding Coalition Member of the Year at the annual Safe Kids Kansas banquet.